

Applicants provisionally elect Group V (claims 25-36, 38, and 39), expressly reserving the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the remaining non-elected claims present in the application.

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please add new claims 42-61 and cancel without prejudice claims 1-41.

Please add new claims 42-61 as follows:

42. (New) A system for detecting features of a tissue sample, comprising:
an optical probe; and
an accessory device for attachment to the optical probe,
wherein at least one of the probe and the accessory device includes an element for providing encoded information relating to at least one of the probe and the accessory device.
43. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the element is an electrical element and the encoded information is stored therein.
44. (New) The system of claim 42, further comprising an element reader for accessing the encoded information in the element.
45. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the element includes a bar code for storing the encoded information.
46. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the encoded information includes identification information.
47. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the encoded information enables particular operating modes of the device.
48. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the electrical element is remotely programmable.
49. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the electrical element includes an RFID chip.

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50. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the element reader further comprises a processor including a memory, and wherein the processor compares identification information encoded in the element to identification information located within the memory.

51. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the processor transmits instructions based on whether a match is found between the identification information encoded in the element and the identification information encoded in the memory.

52. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein if no match is found, the identification information encoded in the element is added to the memory.

53. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the instructions include an instruction that permits the optical probe to function if no match is found.

54. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the instructions include an instruction that prevents the optical probe from functioning if no match is found.

55. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the processor controls transmission of light by the probe.

56. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the element reader is attached to the probe.

57. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the element reader is separate from the accessory device.

58. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the element reader is removably attached to the probe.

59. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the accessory device includes a flexible portion for conforming to a body space.

60. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the accessory device includes an integral lens.

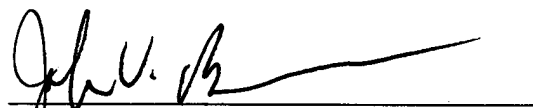
61. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the accessory device includes a body and an attachment element for attaching the accessory device to the probe, the attachment element detaching from the body of the accessory device when the accessory device is removed from the probe, thereby preventing re-use of the accessory device.

Applicants have added new claims 42-61 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c) to specify that the testing system is a system for detecting features of a tissue sample. The new claims further specify that the system includes an accessory device that includes an element for providing encoded information. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been introduced by the present Amendment. Amendments to the claims are supported by the specification at, for example, page 2, line 20 to page 5, line 8 and page 18, line 24 to page 19, line 2.

CONCLUSION

Applicants request that the application now proceed to examination. Applicants believe that no fees are necessitated by the present Amendment and Response. However, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0531. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney at (617)-248-7870.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

42. (New) A system for detecting features of a tissue sample, comprising:
an optical probe; and
an accessory device for attachment to the optical probe,
wherein at least one of the probe and the accessory device includes an element for
providing encoded information relating to at least one of the probe and the accessory device.
43. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the element is an electrical element and the
encoded information is stored therein.
44. (New) The system of claim 42, further comprising an element reader for accessing the
encoded information in the element.
45. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the element includes a bar code for storing the
encoded information.
46. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the encoded information includes identification
information.
47. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the encoded information enables particular
operating modes of the device.
48. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the electrical element is remotely programmable.
49. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the electrical element includes an RFID chip.
50. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the element reader further comprises a processor
including a memory, and wherein the processor compares identification information encoded in
the element to identification information located within the memory.
51. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the processor transmits instructions based on
whether a match is found between the identification information encoded in the element and the
identification information encoded in the memory.

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52. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein if no match is found, the identification information encoded in the element is added to the memory.

53. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the instructions include an instruction that permits the optical probe to function if no match is found.

54. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the instructions include an instruction that prevents the optical probe from functioning if no match is found.

55. (New) The system of claim 50, wherein the processor controls transmission of light by the probe.

56. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the element reader is attached to the probe.

57. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the element reader is separate from the accessory device.

58. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the element reader is removably attached to the probe.

59. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the accessory device includes a flexible portion for conforming to a body space.

60. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the accessory device includes an integral lens.

61. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the accessory device includes a body and an attachment element for attaching the accessory device to the probe, the attachment element detaching from the body of the accessory device when the accessory device is removed from the probe, thereby preventing re-use of the accessory device.

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